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News Release ~ Communiqué

Lougheed ("Beaulieu") House commemorated

Calgary, June 11, 1995 - In a ceremony held today, Senator Dan Hays, along with honoured dignitaries and guests, officially commemorated the Lougheed (Beaulieu) House, in recognition of its national architectural significance. The announcement was made on behalf of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Michel Dupuy.

In November 1991, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized the architectural significance of the Lougheed (Beaulieu) House and recommended that it be commemorated. Today's plaque presentation and ceremony were the culmination of years of effort to bring about that distinction by the dedicated volunteers of the Historical Society of Alberta's Lougheed House Committee.

In keeping with the importance of celebrating our Canadian heritage and honouring our links to our shared past, festivities at the commemoration ceremony had a decidedly turn-of-the-century flavour. The Foothills Model-T Ford car club was on hand, as were displays and entertainment courtesy of the Lougheed Conservation Society, Heritage Park, Kingsland Elementary School Choir, the Historical Society of Alberta, Fort Calgary, the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, Memory Lane Period Costumes, the Beau Quartet and The Canadian Red Cross Society.

Lougheed House was built during an era when homes were constructed on such a scale and with a grandeur that befitted the wealth and social status of those who owned them. Such homes often took on a personality of their own and, appropriately, were given names by their owners. The Lougheed home was just such a grand house and came to be known as "Beaulieu".

Constructed of locally quarried sandstone, Beaulieu is one of the earliest surviving sandstone mansions on the Canadian prairies and has been a feature of the Calgary landscape for over one hundred years. Built in 1891 for Calgary lawyer, businessman and later Alberta Senator, James A. Lougheed, "Beaulieu" was occupied by the Lougheed family until 1938, when it was used as a training centre for unemployed girls during the Depression. The house was occupied by the military during World War II and was employed as the local barracks for the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. Following the war, the house was used briefly as a YWCA and eventually served as Red Cross headquarters for its many programmes in Calgary.

Although Lougheed House has remained mostly empty since 1977, the commemoration of its national architectural significance marks the coming of age of Beaulieu as a major component of our shared Calgarian, Albertan and Canadian heritage.

In keeping with the vision of the Lougheed House Committee regarding the possible future uses of Beaulieu, it was decided that Lougheed House must serve the public of Alberta and visitors to the province as a place of learning and enjoyment, and as a tangible link to Canadian history. Toward this end, a number of proposals are now under consideration regarding the possible future role of this architectural treasure. Among options under consideration are conversion of Beaulieu into a museum, a tea house/catering facility, an interpretative centre, a rental facility, or a gift shop.

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